

BOOK REVIEWS



In our July-August 1989 book review section, the reviewer of Dan Graham's *No Name on the Bullet: A Biography of Audie Murphy* (pages 50-51), said the book did not have pictures and a bibliography. He was doing his review from a set of page proofs, however, and these seldom contain all the material found in the published book. Such was the case here—the published book does contain photographs and a bibliography. We regret our poor editorial work and will do our best to keep it from happening again.

We think you will be interested in two newsletter-format publications that are available to the general public. Both contain much useful and up-to-date military information.

One is **FOR YOUR EYES ONLY**, a biweekly "open intelligence summary of current military affairs." It is produced by Tiger Publications, P.O. Box 8759, Amarillo, TX 79114-8759, telephone (806) 655-2009.

The other is a new one: **WarPac NOTES**, which states it is "the Warsaw Pact Ground and Air Forces Newsletter." The first issue makes a good impression; it is informative and is well laid out. It will be published on a bimonthly basis by Directed Studies Institute, P.O. Box 10296, Houston, TX 77206-0296, telephone (713) 691-6876.

All professional infantrymen with any interest at all in the higher direction of our armed forces will want to read two recently published books. The first is **FOUR STARS**, by Mark Perry (Houghton Mifflin, 1989. 402 Pages. \$24.95), "the first book to get inside the JCS and tell the story of its crucial role in our post-war history." It is also an outstanding study of civilian-military relationships, and the effect they had on our armed forces. Mark Perry is a Washington reporter who knows his way around Washington.

While Perry does not devote many pages to the Korean War era, the second

book does. It is **HISTORY OF THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE: THE TEST OF WAR, 1950-1953**, by Doris M. Condit (Historical Office, Office of the Secretary of Defense, 1988. USGPO S/N 008-000-00509-5. 756 Pages. \$42.00). This volume, the second in a series planned for the history of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, covers the period from June 1950 to January 1953. While the first eight chapters concentrate on the Korean War, the later chapters deal with budgetary considerations, NATO matters, military assistance, nuclear weapons, and internal organizational problems. Even then, the author admits there are other areas that could not be covered in any detail, notably Middle Eastern and Latin American affairs.

In general, we American military people know little about the important role the First Canadian Army played in northwest Europe between June 1944 and May 1945. Fortunately, there is a new book that tells us what we should have known all along. It is **THE LONG LEFT FLANK: THE HARD FOUGHT WAY TO THE REICH, 1944-1945**. By Jeffery Williams (A Leo Cooper Book. The Shoe String Press, 1988. 348 Pages. \$26.00). The author, an infantryman himself, is a native Canadian who commanded Canadian troops in northwest Europe during World War II and later in Korea. Now living in England, he combines a well-written narrative with many fine maps (some from the Canadian official history of the war) to detail the important role the Canadians played in liberating northwest Europe and the difficult tasks they were assigned in clearing the Channel ports and the Scheldt estuary, and in probably their most difficult campaign—the Rhineland operation between 8 and 21 February 1945, which was waged in appalling weather conditions and which cost them dearly.

A different sort of book is **SHAM-**

ROCK AND SWORD: THE ST. PATRICK'S BATTALION IN THE U.S.-MEXICAN WAR. By Robert R. Miller (University of Oklahoma Press, 1989. 248 Pages. \$24.95). This book nicely complements John S.D. Eisenhower's book on the war with Mexico, which we reviewed in our September-October 1989 issue. The author tells the story of an unusual unit in the Mexican Army, one that was composed almost completely of deserters from the U.S. Army. The Mexicans called this unit by various names during the course of the war and did not accord it a battalion designation until 1848. First as artillerymen, and then as infantrymen, the deserters fought against their former comrades at Matamoros, Monterrey, Buena Vista, Cerro Gordo, and Churubusco, where it was practically destroyed. The author concentrates most of his attention on the men who served in the unit and not on the unit's organization or tactical employment.

Although those who served in the battalion are still treated as heroes in Mexico, the author demolishes many of the myths about the unit and its members that have developed over the years. It is a book that is worth your while.

Here are several other books we want you to know about:

- **NATO'S CENTRAL REGION FORCES: CAPABILITIES, CHALLENGES, CONCEPTS.** By Anthony H. Cordesman (Jane's 1988. 278 Pages). This is another fine reference book in the publisher's Military Power Series, which it produces for the Royal United Services Institute. The author has written extensively on military matters, particularly on political and military activities in the Middle East. In this book he concentrates his attention on NATO's central region forces, or rather on the "nine very different sets of military forces" in the region. Emerging events may bring about certain changes in the author's statistics,

but until they do his book is one to keep handy.

• **BATTLE FOR MOSCOW: THE 1942 SOVIET GENERAL STAFF STUDY.** Edited by Michael Parrish (Pergamon-Brassey's, 1989. 210 Pages. \$40.00). The editor is an acknowledged expert on Soviet military matters. In this publication, he breathes new life into a long-forgotten study of Soviet World War II tactics. The study itself was done for the Operations Section of the Soviet General Staff in 1942 to capture the lessons of the battle for Moscow that lasted from 1 October 1941 to mid-January 1942. Primarily intended for internal use, it is, as the editor puts it, "a rare book, a Soviet scrutiny, warts and all, of a part of their own war effort and...a guide to how battles were fought and why their results were not always satisfactory." A reader may want to compare the Soviet views with those presented by former German Army officers in the German military studies series now being reprinted by the U.S. Government Printing Office (see *INFANTRY*, September-October 1989, page 48). Of particular interest to today's infantry unit commanders are the chapters titled "Reconnaissance" and "Combat Employment by Ground Troops of Smoke for Cover and Camouflage."

• **THE ILLUSTRATED FACE OF BATTLE.** By John Keegan (Viking, 1989. 304 Pages. \$29.95). We can add little to the mountains of praise that have been heaped on the narrative portion of this book since it first appeared in print in the author's *FACE OF BATTLE* in 1976. It has not changed in this book, although the author's new introduction makes for interesting reading. What the publisher has done is to add to that narrative more than 100 full-color photographs and black-and-white illustrations in an attempt to breathe life into the printed word. In some cases this has been done; in other cases, it should never have been attempted. But even if you have a copy of the original, look at this one.

• **UNITED STATES ARMY WEAPON SYSTEMS, 1989.** USGPO S/N 008-020-01161-4. 1989. 161 Pages. \$13.00, Softbound. This is the latest in the series of annual publications produced by the office of the Assistant Secretary

of the Army for Research, Development, and Acquisition. Following an introductory research and development section, the weapon systems and other equipment shown are grouped into eight categories by specific Army mission areas such as close combat and fire support.

There are also three recently published books on the famous Berlin Airlift, the Allied effort that went on from late June 1948 to early September 1949 to break the Soviet land blockade of Berlin. The books are:

• **THE BERLIN AIRLIFT.** By Ann and John Tusa (Atheneum, 1989. 445 Pages. \$25.95).

• **AIRBRIDGE TO BERLIN: THE BERLIN CRISIS OF 1948, ITS ORIGIN AND AFTERMATH.** By D.M. Giangreco and Robert E. Griffin (Presidio Press, 1988. 247 Pages. \$14.95, Softbound).

• **THE BERLIN AIRLIFT.** By Robert Jackson (A Patrick Stephens Limited Book. Sterling, 1988. 160 Pages. \$19.95).

As may be assumed by the number of pages in each book, the Tusas' is the most detailed, although its main concentration is not on the airlift itself. The two authors do not ignore the airlift or the events surrounding it; they simply have concentrated their attention on other events in Berlin and on the city's people themselves.

The Giangreco-Griffin book contains a large number of photographs that supplement a crisply done narrative. It is the only one of the three to discuss the aftermath of the lifting of the blockade and Berlin's situation today. They agree with the Tusas that "as long as Germany remains divided along the current political schisms, so will Berlin."

Robert Jackson, a Royal Air Force squadron commander during the airlift, properly concentrates on the men who flew the planes, on the planes themselves, on the development of appropriate command and control measures, and on the logistics of the overall operation—Operation PLAINFARE to the RAF, Operation VITTLES to the United States Air Force. His primary attention is focused on the RAF, but he certainly does not ignore the U.S. effort.

Here are a number of our longer re-

views:

RUDE MECHANICALS. By A.J. Smithers (Hippocrene Books, 1988. 216 Pages. \$39.95). Reviewed by Captain Harold E. Raugh, Jr., United States Army.

This interesting book is subtitled "An Account of Tank Maturity During the Second World War." It is a worthy sequel to the author's earlier book *A New Excalibur*, which chronicled the development of the tank during and after World War I.

The British Army pioneered the development of the tank and armored forces during World War I, and by the end of that conflict had more armored vehicles than any other nation. But this initial advantage was quickly lost through apathy and retrenchment. Other nations, though, recognized the tank's vast potential and started to build mechanized forces. By 1939 and the beginning of World War II, the British basically had no tank force or tank doctrine.

This easy-to-read book concentrates on the mechanical development and the characteristics and capabilities of World War II British, U.S., German, and Soviet tanks. Although he does not focus on the theoretical or doctrinal evolution of armored warfare, the author notes that Royal Artillerymen were against tank development, being afraid of a mobile gun platform that might steal their thunder. More than 50 fascinating photographs supplement the text, as does an enlightening foreword written by General Sir John Hackett.

The book makes a significant contribution to World War II historiography.

THE U.S. ARMY WAR COLLEGE GUIDE TO THE BATTLES OF CHANCELLORSVILLE AND FREDERICKSBURG. By Jay Luvaas and Harold W. Nelson (South Mountain Press, 1988. 360 Pages. \$21.95). Reviewed by Major Don Rightmyer, United States Air Force.

This is the third volume in the War College's Civil War series by the team of Luvaas and Nelson. (The first two covered the battles of Gettysburg and Antietam.) It provides an excellent study of

these two battles for either private study and reading or actual use while walking the battlefields.

The first half of the book is devoted to the battle of Fredericksburg. The authors unfold the sequence of the battle through the use of actual reports and recollections from those who were there. They provide detailed instructions to direct movement around the battlefield and detailed maps that portray unit movements throughout the battle.

The second half deals with Chancellorsville. The unit movements in this battle were far more complex and included Stonewell Jackson's famous march around the flank of the Union Army. The authors provide detailed orders of battle for both sides, an excellent essay on the role intelligence played during the three-day battle, and a complete index.

This book, and others in the series (about a dozen are planned), are recommended for study and use.

SECRET ARMIES: INSIDE THE AMERICAN, SOVIET, AND EUROPEAN SPECIAL FORCES. By James Adams (Atlantic Monthly Press, 1989. 440 Pages. \$19.95). Reviewed by Leroy Thompson, Manchester, Missouri.

The greatest strength of this book lies in the fact that its author is outside the military establishment: he is a British journalist who specializes in defense issues. As a result, he does an especially good job of analyzing the problems that have plagued U.S. special operations since the end of World War II. Unfortunately, his narrative sometimes takes on the tone of Yankee-bashing since he does not cast the same critical eye on special operations closer to home.

Still, the book does correctly highlight the fact that U.S. special operations forces have often found their greatest enemies in the Pentagon rather than in the Kremlin. This alone puts the book on the recommended list.

Unfortunately, the author does not have a special operations background, and therefore makes a number of obvious errors in facts and conclusions. For example, he continually confuses U.S. Marine Corps reconnaissance units with

U.S. Navy SEALs, and such errors do detract somewhat from his credibility.

VIETNAM: STRATEGY FOR A STALEMATE. By F. Charles Parker IV (Paragon House, 1989. 257 Pages. \$19.95). Reviewed by Doctor Joe P. Dunn, Converse College.

The book is the product of the author's Ph.D. dissertation. A serving U.S. Army officer, he has undertaken a large task—to develop the intricate interplay between the United States, the Soviet Union, and China during the Vietnam War.

Among his conclusions are that, first, the Johnson administration fought a war to contain China, which did not need containing; second, when Johnson realized this and determined the war could not be won before the 1968 election, he chose to abandon military victory as a goal in 1966, with the last two years fought merely to achieve stalemate; third, Soviet policy in Vietnam was dominated almost entirely by its conflict with China; and finally, the aim of Soviet policy until 1970 was to escalate the conflict and increase the costs of U.S. commitment, not to achieve Vietnamese victory. (After the U.S. withdrawal and the Sino-American rapprochement, the Soviets changed their policy to one of bringing a North Vietnamese victory in order to contain China.)

Although his damning indictments of the Johnson administration are interesting, the author proclaims rather than proves them. The documents on U.S. decision making are still too limited to verify his deductions, and his interpretations of Soviet and Chinese actions are drawn from their presses—an even less definitive source. In sum, the author has attempted more than he has been able to do, and he has chosen his evidence selectively.

The omission from his bibliography of two books that address the Vietnam triangle—Daniel Papp's *Vietnam: The View From Moscow, Peking, Washington* (1981) and Douglas Pike's *Vietnam and the Soviet Union: Anatomy of an Alliance* (1987) is troubling. Despite this book's intriguing theses, both of the other books are better.

THE MASKS OF WAR: AMERICAN MILITARY STYLES IN STRATEGY AND ANALYSIS. By Carl H. Builder (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1989. 240 Pages. \$10.95, Softbound). Reviewed by Captain Stephen A. Johnson, United States Army.

The author is presently a RAND Corporation senior analyst. In this book, he paints a picture of the military services that most people in uniform would probably take exception to. His intent is not to show what the services do wrong, but to "understand how they think and what they are likely to do in the future."

He describes the "enduring personalities" of the three major services to aid the reader in viewing each service's behavior. Thus, he says the Navy defines itself by its independence and stature, the Air Force by its technology, and love of flight, and the Army itself as being made up of the essential artisans of war.

He believes the Army is most susceptible to a disaster because of its present identity crisis. To him, the Army's traditional modest role of nation's servant (teaching citizen soldiers) was replaced by its glorious victories during World War II. Although these memories have been tarnished by Korea and Vietnam, they still drive the Army to its new "love of toys" and also help justify its piece of the budgetary pie.

While one may disagree with the idea of using "personalities" to explain why the services behave the way they do, the author's ideas are provocative. Military professionals should at least be aware of them.

THE AIR CAMPAIGN: PLANNING FOR COMBAT. By John A. Warden III (National Defense University Press, 1988. 193 Pages. \$10.00, Softbound). Reviewed by Captain David K. Taggart, United States Army.

The U.S. Air Force does not believe in the present AirLand Battle doctrine. That is the reluctant conclusion one must draw from this publication.

The author, a serving Air Force officer, focuses on the use of air power at the operational level, and by using

numerous historical examples, explains how a theater commander must first gain air superiority in order to conduct the overall air campaign. All too predictably, his study focuses on the Air Force's beloved bombers and fighters, while his historical examples—carefully selected to support his arguments—draw heavily on the World War II strategic bombing surveys. Thus, there are twice as many references to the Battle of Britain as there are to Vietnam.

He treats close air support lightly; in fact, he devotes only one chapter to it. He sees that support not as an integrated part of firepower but as a substitute for artillery. He does not even mention military airlift, aerial resupply, and airborne operations.

Although the author does not claim that his thoughts represent current Air Force doctrine, there are indications in this book that a number of senior leaders of that service do hold the same views. This is most unfortunate.

CRADLE OF VALOR: THE INTIMATE LETTERS OF A PLEBE AT WEST POINT BETWEEN THE TWO WORLD WARS. By Dale O. Smith (Algonquin Books, 1988. 268 Pages. \$16.95). Reviewed by Doctor Charles E. White, USAIS Historian.

On a hot July day in 1930, the author, plus 312 other new cadets, were "welcomed" to West Point. At six feet, six inches in height, Smith was the tallest cadet in his class and the "yearlings" (members of the sophomore class who put the newcomers through their initial eight-week training period known as "Beast Barracks") tended to single him out. In fact, his height attracted the attention of most upperclassmen that year.

His ordeal and triumph is captured in this beautiful book, which provides a fresh perspective of what it was really like to be a "plebe" (a first-year cadet) at the "old" West Point.

What is so special about this book is the fact that it is based largely on the intimate letters to and from members of Smith's close knit family. We actually

see West Point as a young cadet saw it at the time, not as a sentimental "old grad" recalls it years later. Here are the candid and perceptive comments and feelings of a young man who had no idea what he was getting into. In short, this is a heartwarming story that offers a tribute to family ties and to the true meaning of "Duty-Honor-Country."

West Pointers will enjoy this book for its nostalgic look at their "Rockbound Highland Home" of half-a-century ago. The general reader, too, will enjoy this refreshing look at cadet life and will gain an appreciation of a system of training and education that has withstood the test of time.

RECENT AND RECOMMENDED

TAKING CHARGE: MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICES. By Perry M. Smith. Avery Publishing Group, 1988. 261 Pages. \$10.95, Softbound.

THE SITAPUR INCIDENT: THE AMERICANS AND CHINESE MEET THE JAPANESE IN BURMA, 1944. By Paul L. Tobey. Andrew Mowbray Incorporated (Lincoln, RI 02865), 1987. 188 Pages.

THRESHOLD OF WAR: FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT AND AMERICAN ENTRY INTO WORLD WAR II. By Waldo Heinrichs. Oxford University Press, 1988. 279 Pages.

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE WORLD'S AIR FORCES. By Michael J.H. Taylor. Facts on File, 1988. 216 Pages. \$35.00.

NAVAL HISTORY: THE SEVENTH SYMPOSIUM OF THE U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY. Edited by William B. Cogar. Scholarly Resources (104 Greenhill Avenue, Wilmington, DE 19805), 1988. 302 Pages. \$50.00.

THE NEW IMAGE-MAKERS: SOVIET PROPAGANDA AND DISINFORMATION TODAY. Edited by Ladislav Bittman. Pergamon-Brassey's, 1988. 262 Pages. \$24.95.

THE SAGA OF THE CONFEDERATE RAM ARKANSAS: THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY CAMPAIGN, 1862. By Tom Z. Parrish. The Hill College Press, 1987. 237 Pages. \$15.00.

GAINES MILL TO APPOMATTOX: WACO AND McLENNAN COUNTY IN HOOD'S TEXAS BRIGADE. By Harold R. Simpson. Silver Anniversary Edition, 1988. Texian Press (Box 1684, Waco, TX 76703), 1963. 294 Pages. \$16.95.

JUNGLE DIVE-BOMBERS AT WAR. By Peter C. Smith. David and Charles, 1989. 182 Pages. \$29.95.

JACK NORTHROP AND THE FLYING WING. By Theodore Coleman, with Robert Wenkam. Paragon House, 1988. 352 Pages. \$24.95.

MILITARY CLASSICS. By Robert H. Berlin. Historical Bibliography Number 8. Combat

Studies Institute, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas 66027-6900, 1988. 71 Pages, Softbound.

THE MARINE BOOK: A PORTRAIT OF AMERICA'S MILITARY ELITE. By Chuck Lawliss. Thames and Hudson, 1989. 189 Pages. \$35.00.

RETREAT, HELL!: WE'RE JUST ATTACKING IN ANOTHER DIRECTION. By Jim Wilson. Morrow, 1988. 349 Pages. \$19.95.

COUNTDOWN ON CONVENTIONAL FORCES IN EUROPE: A BRIEFING BOOK. Written by Jeffrey Boutwell, et al. Published by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and Ploughshares Fund. November 1988. 24 Pages, Softbound.

GREECE: A PROFILE. Published by the International Studies Association (Athens, Greece: 24 Dimitriou Soutsou), 1988. 121 Pages, loose-leaf bound.

U.S. UNILATERAL ARMS CONTROL INITIATIVES: WHEN DO THEY WORK? By William Rose. Contributions in Military Studies Number 82. Greenwood, 1988. 209 Pages. \$39.95.

THE COMING SOVIET CRASH: GORBACHEV'S DESPERATE PURSUIT OF CREDIT IN WESTERN FINANCIAL MARKETS. By Judy Shelton. Macmillan, 1989. 246 Pages. \$22.50.

THE BERLIN RAIDS: R.A.F. BOMBER COMMAND, WINTER 1943-44. By Martin Middlebrook. Viking, 1989. 407 pages. \$24.95.

WAR AND PEACE IN CENTRAL AMERICA: REALITY AND ILLUSION. By Frank McNeil. Scribner's, 1989. 310 Pages. \$19.95.

ROOSEVELT AND deGAULLE, ALLIES IN CONFLICT: A PERSONAL MEMOIR. By Raoul Aglion. The Free Press, 1988. 237 Pages. \$22.50.

THE PENTAGONISTS. By A. Ernest Fitzgerald. Houghton Mifflin, 1989. 344 Pages. \$19.95.

CORREGIDOR: FROM PARADISE TO HELL. By Ben D. Waldron and Emily Burneson. Pine Hill Press (Freeman, SD 57029), 1988. 240 Pages. \$18.95.

FIRST ACROSS THE RHINE: THE STORY OF THE 291st ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION. By COL David E. Pergrin, with Eric Hammel. Atheneum, 1989. 338 Pages. \$21.95.

ARMIES IN LOW-INTENSITY CONFLICT: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS. Edited by David A. Charters and Maurice Tugwell. Pergamon-Brassey's, 1989. 272 Pages. \$45.00.

THE BRIDGE AT DONG HA. By John Grider Miller. Naval Institute Press, 1989. 200 Pages. \$16.95.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES ON THE BATTLE OF THE LITTLE BIGHORN: THE FINAL REPORT. By Douglas D. Scott, Richard A. Fox, Jr., Melissa A. Connor and Dick Harmon. University of Oklahoma Press, 1989. 326 Pages. \$24.95.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN THE AMERICAN MILITARY: A COMMUNICATION MODELING ANALYSIS. By Cathy Packer. Praeger, 1989. 268 Pages. \$47.95.